



EMERGENCY EVACUATION GUIDE

During a wildfire, roads become congested with vehicles, making evacuation a slow process. Long before evacuation seems likely, gather your family, your pets and your belongings and leave the area. Plan ahead so you know where you are going and what you are going to take with you. This pamphlet and map will guide you through the evacuation process.

When a Fire Approaches

PLEASE NOTE: You do not need to wait for an official evacuation order to leave. If at any time you feel threatened, go ahead and go. This is especially true for families with young children, individuals with a medical condition, and those with large animals. Determine the best evacuation route, keeping in mind it might not be the main road or your normal route. Know two ways out of your neighborhood (see evacuation map inside the pamphlet) and evacuate in the direction opposite of the approaching fire. By evacuating early, you give your family the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

Listen for fire updates on the television or radio. Updates are also posted on various emergency services websites and social media accounts (see list on back page). Since the electricity may go out, have a battery or solar-powered television or radio on hand, with extra batteries.

- Most communities within the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District have narrow roads, which can cause traffic congestion leading to panic for those evacuating. Evacuate early.
- If you are told to evacuate, do so immediately. While having your home damaged or destroyed by fire can be devastating, it is not worth risking your life or the lives of firefighters.
- If you have a gated driveway, leave the gate in an open position.
- Know at least two ways out of your neighborhood (see evacuation map inside the pamphlet) and evacuate in the opposite direction of the fire.
- Do not attempt to pick up children from school or daycare. Staff members are trained to protect your children and will institute proper emergency procedures on site.
- Call your out-of-town contact and let them know you are evacuating and where you are going.
- Once you have left, stay out of the area until authorities permit re-entry. This may take a while as fire and safety personnel have to make sure it is safe and the infrastructure is in place for residents to repopulate the area.

If you are told to evacuate, leave and leave quickly. Most wildfire-related civilian injuries and fatalities occur when homeowners wait too long to evacuate their homes. By evacuating you are doing two things:

1. Removing you and your family from harm's way and
2. Giving firefighters the ability to protect your home without having to worry about civilian safety.

If You Can't Evacuate

- Move furniture and curtains away from windows and sliding glass doors to prevent ignition through radiant heat.
- Keep all doors and windows closed, leaving them unlocked.
- Stay inside your house, away from outside walls. Stay in rooms at the opposite end of the structure from where the fire is approaching.
- Keep your entire family together and remain as calm as possible. Remember, if it gets hot in the house, the heat is even more intense outside.
- Once the fire has passed, check the exterior of your home and roof immediately. Extinguish all sparks and embers.
- Check inside the attic for hidden burning embers.
- Continue to keep all doors and windows closed.
- Continue to check your home and yard for burning embers for at least 12 hours. Keep in mind that winds may shift and blow the fire back toward you. Stay alert and watch for changing conditions.

If you are trapped by fire while attempting to evacuate in your car, park in an area clear of vegetation, close all vehicle windows and vents, cover yourself with a blanket or jacket, and lie on the floor. Be aware the tires on your car may burst; remain inside your vehicle until the fire passes. If you have cell service, call 9-1-1 and let them know where you are.

Receiving Emergency Updates

Various emergency services agencies provide updates on their websites and across social media platforms during emergency situations as they are able. The following may be helpful resources for you and your family:

San Diego County

- Website: www.sdcountyemergency.com
- Twitter: twitter.com/SanDiegoCounty
- www.facebook.com/sandiegocounty
- Reverse 9-1-1 registration and SD Emergency App download: www.readysandiego.org

RSFFPD

- Website: www.rsf-fire.org
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/RSF_Fire
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/RSFFire

Calfire

- Website: www.fire.ca.gov
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/CALFIRESANDIEGO
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/CALFIRE

For more information about wildfire preparedness and emergency services, please visit our website, www.rsf-fire.org.



The SD Emergency app, available for free in the App Store and on Google Play.